DoD Joint Service Conference: Improving the Quality of Life for Military Families with Special Needs

Joint Service Working Group

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An Historical Moment

For the Exceptional Family Member Program:

- **The first joint Service working group devoted to EFMP awareness, whom I just introduced**
- **The first EFMP family support conference with all Services, Guard and Reserve**
- **The first legislation supporting military families with special needs, which I'll discuss in a moment.**
- **The first Congressional Caucus to address military families, including those with special needs AND strong White House interest in military families.**

Where We've Been

- 1954, *Brown Vs the Board of Education*, Kansas established that education was a right that must be available to all on equal terms
- 1971, *Pennsylvania ARC vs. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, established that schools in the state must provide a free appropriate educational to all school aged children with mental retardation
- 1972, *Mills vs. the Washington DC Board of Education,* expanded the class of children with disabilities beyond mental retardation to include all children with disabilities

Special Education Policy

- 1975, *Education for All Handicapped Children Act (Public Law 94-142)* – landmark law that is now known as the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*
- 1981, *DoD Instruction 1342.12, Education of All Handicapped Children in the DoD Dependents Schools*
  - *1993,* Added preschool & early intervention services
- *2005, DoD Instruction 1342.12, "Provision of Early Intervention and Special Education Services to Eligible DoD Dependents*

Anti-Discrimination

- 1973, *Section 504 of the Vocation Rehabilitation Act* – prohibited the discrimination based on disabilities in any organization receiving federal funding.
- 1990, Americans with Disabilities Act, The ADA is a wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability.

Assignment Policy

- 1986, DoD Instruction 1010.13, *Provision of Medically Related Services to Children Receiving or Eligible to Receive Special Education in the DoD Schools Outside the United States*
- 1992, DoD 1010.13-R, *Overseas Assignment of Sponsors Who Have Children With Disabilities Who Are Space-Required Students in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DODDS)*
- *2005,* DoD Instruction 1315.19, *Authorizing Special Needs Family Members Travel Overseas at Government Expense*

Standardization

- 1997, Standardized EDIS (Educational and Developmental Intervention Services)
- 2003, Standardized enrollment forms, DD 2792 and DD 2792-1
- 2009, Standardized the EFMP logo.

Other Milestones

- 2001, *EFM Connections* website – now MilitaryHOMEFRONT
- 2003, First joint service seminar on EFM family support issues (New Orleans)

National Defense Authorization Act for 2010

- Signed by President Obama on October 30th
- Landmark legislation for military families with special needs
- Mandates a standard program across the military departments including a family support program.
- Establishes a Department of Defense *Office of Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs.*
- Requires the Department to develop a comprehensive policy on support to military families with special needs

Requirements

- Identify and address gaps in DoD services
- Expand the EFMP family support program
- Monitor the military departments for the assignment of service members who have family members with special needs.
- Expand EFMP assignment coordination to installations within the US.
- Monitor the availability of programs provided by the Federal, State, local and non-governmental agencies to military families with special needs.

For Families

For military families with special needs, the legislation requires:

- **Assignment to locations where care and support are available**
- **Stabilization of assignments for a minimum of 4 years**
- **Individualized service plans (medical and educational)**
- **The NDAA 2010 requires support for ALL military families with special needs.**

Our efforts have already begun.

- This year OSD provided additional funding to all Services for respite care for families with special needs.
- We funded this conference.
- We are embarking on an EFMP awareness campaign.

Playgrounds

- Kaiserslautern
- Grafenwoehr
- Fort Gordon
- Fort Polk
- Fort Sill
- Fort Bragg
- Fort Lewis
- Fort Bliss
- Fort Stewart
- Fort Carson
- Fort Benning
- Fort Sam Houston
- Fort Belvoir
- Fort Riley
- Fort Drum
- Fort Lee
- Fort Campbell
- Fort Knox
- Fort Meade
- Fort Hood
- NAB San Diego
- NAS Oceana
- NAS Jacksonville
- NAVSTA Pearl Harbor
- NDW Anacostia
- NSA Naples
- NAS Sigonella
- MCB Quantico
- MCB Camp Pendleton
- MCAS Cherry Point
- MCAS Miramar
- MCB Camp Lejeune
- Andrews AFB
- Lackland AFB
- Travis AFB
- Wright-Patterson AFB
- Nellis AFB
- Aviano AB
- RAF Lakenheath
- Kadena AB

HERE WE GO
GIANTS
thank you
for our
playgrounds

EFMP
Exceptional Families
Exceptional Service

Exceptional Families Exceptional Service